



2004 *Legislative Update*

Update for the 21st District

Senator Paull Shin



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Welcome

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Olympia. We are in the middle of our 2004 legislative session and several important bills are moving through the process. I am proud of our accomplishments thus far but many tough decisions still lie ahead. We have numerous issues to work through and only 60 days to accomplish the many goals each senator brought to Olympia from 49 legislative districts throughout Washington.

This session, I am focused on upholding the principle of representative democracy, jobs and economic development, transportation, education funding, and health care. We also have the important task of determining what we will do about our primary election system in Washington. I will update you on these and other issues in this newsletter.

I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you through mailings such as this. I am here to serve the residents of the 21st District and Washington. There is a wide range of opinions in our region and I will use my best judgement to represent you faithfully. I will do my best to represent your views in the Senate.

I take this duty very seriously, and in order for me to do my job I need to hear from you. I am a quick phone call or e-mail away and I value the opportunity to speak with you about the issues important to you. Thank you for your questions and comments.

Sincerely,

Paull Shin
State Senator, 21st District

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Paine Field Expansion

In early February, I held a town hall meeting with concerned citizens and other representatives from the 21st District to discuss one senator's proposal to fund a study to examine the viability of commercial air service at Paine Field in Everett.

Residents in our community have resisted any expansion for many years and I believe that commercial air service at Paine Field will dramatically affect the quality of life in the entire 21st District and surrounding areas. The surrounding community has worked with Paine Field over the past 20 years following the mediated role agreement. This contract between the airport and the community has guided development around the air field and abandoning it now would be a true shame.

A crowd of almost 300 residents took time out of their Saturday to attend the meeting and voice their opposition to this proposal. They shared their experiences and concerns with me and bolstered my feeling that commercial air service at Paine Field is a bad idea.

When this issue surfaced in the early 1990s, I became heavily involved with Save Our Communities (SOC). It is refreshing to see that we can still come together to fight to preserve our quiet home town. I am deeply concerned about the threat to quality of life for 21st District residents near Paine Field, and I will continue to oppose this proposal.



Boeing's 7E7

The economy is looking bright for residents in the 21st District since we heard last month about Boeing's decision to build the 7E7 jetliner in nearby Everett. This means at least 1,200 jobs for people in our community, many of whom have been laid off and are desperate to get back to work.

Our efforts in the Legislature during last year's special session proved to be very successful. There were 20 other states competing for the 7E7 project and I believe it was a major win for our state. Had Boeing decided not to build the 7E7 here, Washington would have been in great danger of losing the entire aerospace industry. This means security for the future.

Protecting Our Waterways

On Dec. 30, our community and the areas around us fell victim to a major oil refueling accident in which 4,800 gallons of oil spilled into the Puget Sound. A fuel transfer at Point Wells Chevron-Texaco terminal was unattended, and the fuel overflowed the barge tanks and spread across the sound. Along with other legislators, I visited the site of the accident on two occasions and received detailed briefings on the spill and our response to it.

Foss Maritime is taking responsibility for the accident and I think it's time that legislators take action and put policies in place to prevent these accidents from happening in the first place. I co-sponsored a bill with some of my fellow senators representing many Puget Sound communities affected by the oil spill (Senate Bill 6641). The bill adopts a zero spill strategy, aiming to prevent the release of oil or other hazardous substances into marine waters. The bill will put guidelines in place to ensure that oil spills are prevented and those that do happen are dealt with in a timely manner.

Washington's Primary

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled that Washington's blanket primary system is unconstitutional. In late February, the U.S. Supreme Court will announce whether they will take up our appeal of the 9th Circuit decision. If they don't take the case, the Legislature will have the tough job of determining a new primary system. If our lawmaking body does not agree upon an alternate solution, Washington voters may be in danger of having no primary election at all.

Several options are being considered and we have a very short amount of time to decide.

Our current blanket primary works efficiently and reflects the will of the people of Washington to be independent of a political party. If we must replace it, I will carefully consider each of the alternatives and take your thoughts into account before voting. My highest priority is to ensure the people's right to choose who they feel is the best candidate to represent them.

How do you think we should solve the primary problem? Please call or e-mail my office and let me know what you think.

To find out more information about the bills I have discussed in this newsletter or other legislation being considered you can visit the Legislature's Web site www.leg.wa.gov or for other state government information <http://access.wa.gov>.

Biotech Company Moves to Washington

Recently, there have been many reports of large companies moving jobs overseas in search of cheaper labor. I am deeply concerned about high-skill, high-paying jobs becoming extinct in our country.

For the past three years, I have worked with the South Korean biotechnology company Univera, convincing them to relocate their U.S. corporate headquarters to Washington. I'm pleased to report that after the three-year search involving California, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona and Texas, they chose to make Washington their home. This means importing jobs to our state, not exporting jobs.

Univera will bring 300 professional, high-paying jobs to our state over the next few years. This is a big win for our state and I was pleased that they recognized the vast natural and human resources our state has to offer.

Brightwater

Last year, our communities were threatened by the encroachment of another county seizing our land for their benefit. The proposal for King County's Brightwater sewage treatment plant to be built in Snohomish County is a key issue for residents in our community. I feel strongly about passing legislation that ensures that the principle of representative democracy is upheld. Though the Edmonds waterfront property is no longer being considered, another area in Snohomish County has been selected.

It is simply undemocratic for counties to be able to build their facilities outside their borders without the consent of the jurisdiction housing the facility. I feel strongly about passing a law that guarantees our rights in situations such as these.

Last session, I sponsored SB 5078 in an effort to prohibit any jurisdiction from launching such projects unless the plan has been approved by the host jurisdiction. This is the third year I have been fighting for such a bill and I will fight on until the bill passes.

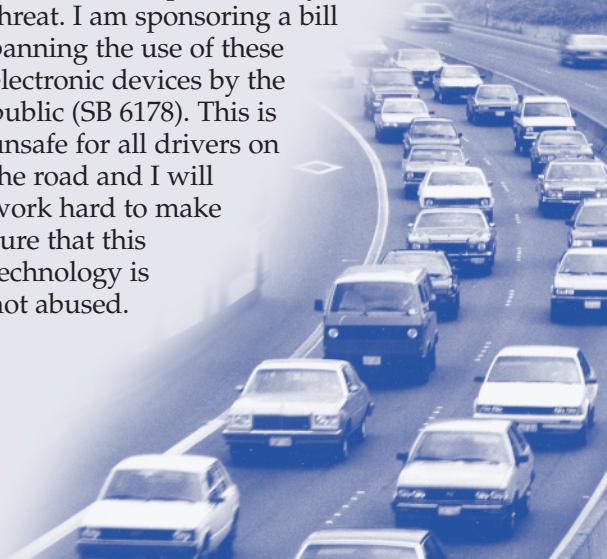
Getting Traffic Moving

Traffic and transportation issues have been my priority in recent years. The transportation revenue package passed last session made great strides in dealing with traffic and gridlock in our region. The Legislature approved a 5-cent gas-tax increase, a 15 percent increase in weight fees for commercial trucks and a 0.3 percent sales tax on motor vehicles. Unfortunately, more needs to be done. In our area, I would like to see Highway 9 and I-405 expanded and better connected to help with safety concerns and to make it easier for semi-trucks coming over the pass to travel south on I-405 rather than cut across to I-5. This would allow for a more direct route and relieve traffic congestion for commuters in our area driving into Seattle for work.

To assist in easing traffic congestion for residents in our area is Sound Transit's Sounder commuter train traveling between Everett and Seattle. The train, which took its first trip in January, offers a one-hour ride from Everett to Seattle with one stop in Edmonds. Currently the Sounder only runs to and from Seattle once each day, but Sound Transit hopes to expand service to four morning and four evening runs per day. They also plan to add a new stop in Mukilteo. For more information

on Sound Transit or the Sounder train, you can visit their Web site www.soundtransit.org or call (800) 201-4900.

A few months ago I heard a news story about electronic devices that can change traffic signals. The technology was originally designed to allow first responders to reach their destinations more quickly in case of emergency. Recently, there have been media reports of these devices being sold to the general public over the Internet. In the hands of the general public, traffic signal preemption devices pose a serious public safety threat. I am sponsoring a bill banning the use of these electronic devices by the public (SB 6178). This is unsafe for all drivers on the road and I will work hard to make sure that this technology is not abused.



Project Citizen

The future is looking bright for many of our young children. This session I have the pleasure of working with some health-conscious fifth- and sixth-grade students at Terrace Park School in Mountlake Terrace on a very important piece of legislation.

As a part of a program called Project Citizen, the students researched the topic of secondhand smoke and created a proposal to ban smoking within a 35-foot radius outside of public places. They presented their idea to me and asked if I would sponsor a bill on their behalf. I was convinced by their arguments and was pleased to do so.

The students felt strongly about being exposed to secondhand smoke at public establishments they frequent, such as restaurants and bowling alleys. The bill will make it so that people can't smoke near doorways and other entrances to these places.

More than 30 students came to Olympia to testify

in front of the Senate Commerce & Trade Committee. They selected one student to represent their bill, and I must say everyone who witnessed the testimony was thoroughly impressed.

These students truly inspire me. When these children grow up and become tomorrow's leaders, I have faith that our state, nation and world will be in good hands.




Sen. Shin and Matthew Landon from Terrace Park School in Mountlake Terrace testified in support of the smoking ban bill in the Commerce & Trade Committee.

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